Utilisation of cotton exports quota by the exporting agencies

651. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cotton export quota released by his-Ministry is not being utilised by the exporting agencies; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the United States and China are having bumper cotton crops this year and thereby making Indian export extremely difficult; if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether cotton crop this year was beyond the target set up by the Government; and

(d) whether Central and State Government agencies will be buying more cotton due to bumper cotton crop; if so, what is the quantum purchased from Gujarat and other States so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The exporting agencies have been experiencing difficulty in export of cotton due to easy supply position of cotton in the international market, during the current cotton year. Government of India released for export during the current cotton year, 10.00 lakh bales of long and extra long staple cotton 52,000 bales of Bengal Deshi and 25,000 bales of Yellow Pickings, in favour of various exporting agencies. Out of these, 1,30,793 bales of long and extra long staple cotton, 29,497 bales of Bengal Deshi and 10961 bales of Yellow Pickings were registered for export upto March, 1986.

(b) Yes, Sir. The production of cotton in USA and China during the current cotton year is estimated at 13.53 million bales and 22.05 million bales respectively. India is facing stiff competition from these countries in export of cotton, during the current cotton year.

(c) and (d) The cotton crop during the current cotton season has now been estimated by the Cotton Advisory Board at about 107 lakh bales as against the earlier estimate of 94 lakh bales. The Cotton Corporation of India has been directed to continue its purchases in the cotton growing states including Gujarat. The Cotton Corporation of India purchased a total quantity of 13.84 lakh bales from various cotton growing States including 3.64 lakh bales of cotton from Gujarat as on 24th April, 1986. The Gujarat State Cooperative Cotton Federation has also been advised to step up its purchases.

Decline in the off-take of foodgrains from FCI godowns

652. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that offtake of foodgrains from the FCI godowns has gone down due to rise in prices of wheat and rice;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no supply of foodgrains in the rural areas; and

(c) what was the quantum of foodgrains supplied to rural areas during the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 for distribution through the Fair Price Shops?